SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

Inyo and Mono Counties, California P.O. Box 132, Bishop, CA 93514

NEWSLETTER
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"There's been a major shift, and very sudden... building the MX and Midgetman missiles now would be total fiscal fantasy." ---Sen. Carl Levine

December, 1989
Editor: Kerry Jellison

The End of the Cold War - Admiral Carroll Speaks at Cerro Coso

Rear Admiral Eugene J. Carroll, Jr., retired U.S. Navy officer and Deputy Director of the Center for Defense Information spoke at Cerro Coso Community College on Dec. 6. The crowd of at least 200 people was composed of students and interested people from the community, including employees of China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

After reviewing the history of post-war US-Soviet military relations and the spiraling nuclear arms race, Admiral Carroll launched into his analysis of the end of the Cold War and the rapidly changing dynamics of East-West relations. According to Carroll, fear was the driving force of the Cold War. But the unwinnable superpower wars in Vietnam and Afganistan served to lessen fear of superpower domination. Carroll believes the Soviet invasion of Afganistan was the beginning of the end of the Cold War, since involvement in Afganistan probably prevented Soviet military intervention in Poland in the early 1980's. The end of the Cold War might best be marked by Soviet withdrawal from Afganistan.

In Admiral Carroll's view, the Soviets apparently feel that they are no longer threatened by US military might. They are unilaterially cutting their military and making bold arms control initiatives. They realize they are more threatened by the collapsing Soviet economy and political system and they can't waste their resources on a useless and massive military structure.

"Who is the enemy? Why has the US not accepted the end of the Cold War?" asked Carroll. The evidence we have not accepted it is in our continued record military spending. President Bush's proposed "Defense" budgets for the next few years will continue to pour $300 billion a year into the Pentagon. These military budgets do not acknowledge the astonishing changes in the Soviet Union and other parts of the world. Admiral Carroll pointed out that there are powerful forces in Washington who do not want to see an end to our adversarial relationship with the Soviets. Carroll emphasized that the Military-Industrial-*Congressional* Complex wants continued procurement of new weapons systems. Congress thrives on pork-barrel programs, manufacturers want the big contracts, and the bureaucracy formed for each program maintains a self-sustaining life of its own. We need an enemy to continue to justify our multi-billion dollar weapons systems.

The power of the Military-Industrial-*Congressional* Complex and its need for an enemy has caused the US to take arms control positions which are designed to prevent and delay any real reductions in weapons. Carroll pointed out that we are preparing for a war which no one will come to. The use of nuclear weapons is unthinkable because it is suicidal. The Soviets and Europeans recognize this, and they recognize the economic waste in the arms race. They will proceed with arms reductions even if we don't. But President Bush doesn't seem to realize this yet.

How can we turn this around? How can we restructure our military in light of the end of the Cold War? Admiral Carroll stressed the importance of *civilian* leadership in defense, and the need for the civilian authorities to establish the role of each military service. Do we really need four airforces? The civilian leadership needs to rein in the interservice rivalries which help create these redundancies. Carroll expressed disappointment in the recent appointment of General Powell as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs because it was based more on his political than military skills.

Of course, Admiral Carroll said, we should stop fighting proxy wars. And we should change our strategy of containment of the USSR which has resulted in having half a million US soldiers stationed outside of the US. Carroll advocated deep cuts in the US military budget: carefully thought out, integrated, planned cuts, recognizing the unique role of each service. He feels that in conjunction with arms control treaties, deep cuts can safely be made. In his assessment, the single most effective thing we can do to stop the arms race is to stop testing nuclear weapons.

How do we get our civilian leaders to take the initiative and make these kinds of changes? Admiral. Carroll suggested we get involved in the political process. We must tell our elected officials the Cold War is over and we want changes. We should work to elect the representatives and leaders who will recognize the changes that are needed and who have the will to make them.

Reported by Sylvia Colton and Mark Bagley

A Menu for Defense Cuts

Excerpted from the Los Angeles Times, Dec 13, 1989

A survey of analysts led Fortune magazine to conclude last July that the Pentagon could be ready to meet any likely threat 10 years from now with a budget one-third smaller than the present level of $300 billion a year. A study for the Brookings Institution in Washington last month concluded that the Pentagon could get by on even less by then, about $160 billion. . .

Fortune's survey would reduce the defense budget to about $200 billion, taking the biggest single chunk from the Army to reflect the diminished threat of a major war in Europe. . . Nuclear forces would be negotiated down from 13,000 to 4,000 weapons for an annual savings of $15 billion. The (Brookings study) lower budget would also include conventional arms reductions in addition to cuts in expensive weapons programs. (It) would cancel the Navy's Trident II submarine, the C-17 combat cargo plane, the single-warhead Midgetman missile and plans to put 10-warhead MX missiles on railroad flatcars...

LEGISLATIVE REPORT AND ACTION ALERT

Military Spending - 1990 and Beyond

The sweeping changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have increased calls for cuts in military spending. The final military budget for Fiscal Year 1990 is $301.5 billion. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney is weighing a reduction of up to $180 billion over a four-year period. However, this does not represent a true cut in spending, since it is a proposed cut from the Pentagon's projected build-up. The Administration is unlikely to release any specifics until mid-January, when its formal budget proposal is released. But judging from Cheney's statements, there appears to be no intention of making cuts in any strategic nuclear programs.

Although Congress is in recess, the Joint Economic Committee of Congress is holding hearings this month on "the economic consequences of reduced defense spending and the winding down of the Cold War."

ACTION REQUEST: The key players in the current budget deliberations are the House and Senate leaders, and members of the Budget and Armed Services Committees in both the House and Senate. They should be urged to make drastic cuts in military spending, including cuts in strategic nuclear programs. You may want to include specific suggestions for where the money could be better spent. **Please Write to:**

Hon. Bill Thomas (Inyo Co - House Budget Committee)
-OR-
Hon. Tom Foley (Speaker of the House)
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator George Mitchell (Senate Majority Leader)
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

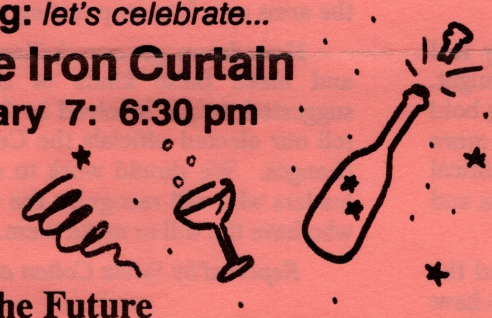
January Meeting: *let's celebrate...*

The Fall of the Iron Curtain

Sunday, January 7: 6:30 pm

come and share...

- Music
- Poetry
- Hopes for the Future



Please bring a dessert

393 Mt Tom Rd., Bishop
call 873-8439 for directions

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